

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

1) Yes, it will interfere greatly. It will require me to pay for equipment that someone else (content providers) will be using.

4) I'm a computer enthusiast and I pay legitimately for digital content already (I'm a DISH network client). If I've paid for the content already, why should I have to pay for hardware to view the content?

5) If this becomes an issue, I will seriously consider dropping all digital content and will absolutely drop all content with a flag.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? Flags in digital content are, by definition, in the digital content. How can I be assured that a manufacturer will not block flagged content just out of fear of breaking the law? At that point in the network, I then have had content taken away from me that I have already paid for. In my eyes that is a form of theft.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

What if the standard changes? Will I have to buy new hardware? What if the standard changes again? Will I have to buy hardware AGAIN?

What if I want to create my own content? What if I want to use older digital devices? What if I want to create my own digital devices?

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Again, standards change. Period. It cannot be stopped. Technology changes. Period. Unfortunately, this can be stopped only by stifling innovation. By including a broadcast flag and a law to require that particular technology, you have effectively choked technology down to that one single technique.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

The cost impacts will be great for consumers. Especially as the standards change. If implemented, we are GUARANTEED that the broadcast flag technology will be changed. Everytime it changes, a consumer will have to buy new equipment or be in danger of becoming a criminal, at worst. At best, the consumer will be the proud owner of an expensive silicont & copper paperweight.

Other Comments:

The whole reason that TVs have been a valuable concern for so long is that the focus has been on getting content to the masses. Over and over, the

drive has been to get it to the end-user faster and with more clarity.

Suddenly, we've become a nation of cowards, afraid to release something out over the airwaves, just because it is digital. So now our focus is becoming, "How can we stop the consumer from getting content?" This cannot possibly be good for consumers, providers, or the nation as a whole.

When people realize the costs associated with using digital content, they will stop using it. If we can't trust our ability to create content and set it free, then the US has lost. Content will come from some other country and be consumed in other countries.

How can this possibly come out well for this nation? It cannot. Please don't allow this to happen.